

Brushstrokes & Revolutions

A lecture series on

Modern and contemporary Egyptian art.

April 28-Jul 14, 2025



To Register:



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Modern and contemporary Egyptian art has long been shaped by a dynamic interplay of local heritage, international influences, and socio-political change. From its inception, it has served as both a reflection of and a response to key historical moments, embodying the nation's quest for identity, independence, and cultural revival. As Egyptian art critic, writer, and former Minister of Culture Badr Al-Din Abou Ghazi (1920–1983) observed in 1956, modern Egyptian art was not an isolated phenomenon but a "national inevitability," deeply embedded in the fabric of society and influenced by the country's political struggles (Ghazi, 1956, p. 114). Similarly, artist Liliane Karnouk highlighted the role of art in shaping national consciousness and articulating post-independence aspirations (Karnouk, 1988, p. 1).

Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, Egyptian art has functioned as a visual archive, tracing the nation's evolution from 19th-century modernization and European-inspired reforms to the rise of nationalism, the fight against British occupation, the socialist era, and Nasserist Pan-Arabism—and reaching to the 2011 Revolution and the post-Arab Spring period. Yet, despite its significance, the political and social narratives embedded in this art remain underexplored. Beyond documenting artistic trends and styles, these works provide insight into themes of urban transformation, activism, and shifting cultural identities.

This lecture series examines the diverse historical and visual cultural dimensions of modern and contemporary Egyptian art, contextualizing it within broader discourses of identity, politics, and social change. Additionally, the talks will explore its role in transcultural exchange, international diplomacy, soft power, and cultural safeguarding, offering non-European perspectives and narratives, besides highlighting Egypt's place within a global artistic dialogue.

The titles of the lectures in this series are available for viewing, and participants may register for each lecture individually by scanning the QR code provided on the official lecture series poster or by accessing the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0REjihgLx_nOXCxPdaNVTqXQEw1L_4Nly9BjBbFY1LGdtqQ/viewform?usp=header

LECTURE SERIES PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS:

◇ Monday, April 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM Berlin time / 7:00 PM Cairo time (Virtual):

Art and Revolution: Mukhtar and the 1919 Revolution as an example



By Prof. Dr. Emad Abou Ghazi

(The primary language of this lecture is Arabic. Real-time translation into English and German will be available via Zoom's Translated Captions feature.)

◇ Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM Berlin time / 6:00 PM Cairo time / 8:00 PM Muscat time (Virtual):

Contexts of Egyptian Art During the First Half of the Twentieth Century



By Prof. Dr. Yasser Mongy

(The primary language of this lecture is Arabic. Real-time translation into English and German will be available via Zoom's Translated Captions feature.)

◇ Monday, June 02, 2025, at 6:00 PM Berlin time / 7:00 PM Cairo time (hybrid):

From Studio to Society: Mohamed Abla on the Role of the Artist in Contemporary Egypt



By Artist: Mohammad Abla

(The primary languages of this lecture are Arabic and German)

◇ Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:00 PM Berlin time / 7:00 PM Cairo time (Virtual):

I For Identity



By Artist Wagih Wahaba

(The primary language of this lecture is English)

◇ Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6:00 PM Berlin time / 7:00 PM Cairo time (Virtual):

Eine Ägyptische Reise durch die Kunst von Mona Ragy Enayat



by Artist Mona Enayat

(The primary language of this lecture is German)

◇ Monday, July 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM Berlin time / 7:00 PM Cairo time (Virtual):

Roots and Horizons: Modern Egyptian Sculpture in a Socio-Political Context



Prof. Dr. Manal Helal

(The primary language of this lecture is English)

This lecture series is presented within the framework of the Maria Reiche Fellowships Program, under the auspices of the Graduate Academy and the Professorship of Image Science in a Global Context

Faculty of Philosophy, Institute for Art and Music Studies
Technical University of Dresden



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